



For more information on Bare Island Fort please visit their website:

<https://www.therussell.com.au/the-rocks-sydney/>



THE ROCKS GUIDED TOUR



STUDENT FIELD TRIP

SUSANNAH PLACE



Located in the heart of The Rocks, Susannah Place is a terrace of four houses built by Irish immigrants in 1844. For nearly 150 years these small houses with tiny backyards, basement kitchens and outside wash houses were home to more than 100 families. Against a backdrop of the working harbour and growing city, their everyday lives played out. Remarkably, Susannah Place survived largely unchanged through the slum clearances and redevelopments of the past century, and today tells the stories of the people and families who called this place and this neighbourhood home.

Susannah Place opened as a 'warts and all' house museum in 1993, but it took until 2006 to finally throw all of its door open to visitors. Curator Anna Cossu explains who lived here, what makes this place is important and why it's forever a 'work in progress'.

Fragments of a 1946 Greek-American Tribune newspaper, olive seeds in the kitchen hearth and names and dates in Rate Assessment books were the only clues to the existence of a Greek family that lived at 60 Gloucester Street, The Rocks.

Marks on walls, evidence of home improvements and remnants of paint, linoleum and wallpapers offer us a glimpse into the lives of the more than 100 families who called Susannah Place home between 1844 and 1990.

A visit to Susannah Place is like opening up a family album – the stories could belong to anyone, from any part of the world. In these four houses people raised families, dreamed of better times – more work, better pay, more space. The stories of Susannah Place tell us who we were, what our city looked like, how we dressed, where we played, how we lived our domestic lives and how our communities have changed over 150 years. Against a backdrop of re-created interiors, the museum tells the real stories of the people who called Susannah Place home.

TODAY'S ITINERARY

9.15am

Depart from Central

10.00 – 12.00pm

Susannah Place Archaeology in The Rocks tour

First hour

Visit the authentically re-created houses and discover the stories of the people who belonged to this once tight-knit working-class neighbourhood. Meet the family who struggled through the Great Depression; the Irish and Greek immigrants who made a new home in The Rocks and the family who operated the 'cheap cash' grocer shop.

Second hour

Starting at Susannah Place Museum, this walking tour explores some of the fascinating archaeological sites in The Rocks and Millers Point, including a rare opportunity to view Parbury Ruins. Unearthed during the construction of an apartment block and now preserved below ground, this site features the extensive remains of an 1820s cottage once owned by ex-convicts.

12.30pm

Lunch at Pancakes on the rocks

1.30 - 2.30pm

The Rocks Discovery Museum (Free admission)

The Rocks Discovery Museum tells the story of The Rocks area of Sydney from pre-European days to the present. Housed in a restored 1850s sandstone warehouse, The Rocks Discovery Museum is home to a unique collection of images and archaeological artefacts found in The Rocks. Learn about the area's traditional custodians, the establishment of the English colony and the time when sailors, whalers and traders made The Rocks their home; through to the 1970s union-led protests which preserved this unique part of Sydney for future generations to explore and enjoy.

2.30 - 3.30pm

Sydney Observatory

Sydney Observatory is located on a hill now known as Observatory Hill in the centre of Sydney. The site evolved from a fort built on 'Windmill Hill' in the early 19th century to an astronomical observatory during the nineteenth century.

4.00pm

Depart from Milsons Point

SYDNEY OBSERVATORY



Sydney Observatory is located on a hill now known as Observatory Hill in the centre of Sydney. The site evolved from a fort built on 'Windmill Hill' in the early 19th century to an astronomical observatory during the nineteenth century. It is now a working museum where evening visitors can observe the stars and planets through a modern 40 cm Schmidt-Cassegrain telescope and a historic 29 cm refractor telescope built in 1874, the oldest telescope in Australia in regular use.

Located high on a hill overlooking Sydney Harbour and the Harbour Bridge, Sydney Observatory commands some of the best views of the city. Serving as both a public observatory and a museum, the Observatory showcases an amazing collection of historic and modern telescopes and instruments, artefacts, books and photos.

Did you know: A proposal to close the observatory in 1926 was narrowly avoided, but, by the mid-1970s, the increasing problems of air pollution and city light made work at the observatory more and more difficult.

THE ROCKS

The Rocks is a neighbourhood of historic laneways in the shadow of Sydney Harbour Bridge. The area has some of Sydney's oldest pubs and many of the upscale restaurants have harbour views.

The Rocks are situated in Sydney's city centre on the western side of Circular Quay, and was the area of the first European settlement in 1788. Before the 1820's it was full of convicts and prostitutes, although this has changed from slums to three-story houses.

It was later overtaken by warehouses and the maritime industry, later again demolished due to the plague and then the Harbour Bridge Construction.

Since the 1970's it has developed into a tourist area, full of cobbled streets, pretty buildings, gorgeous little shops and a lively nightlife filled with pubs and restaurants.

The Rocks, Sydney enjoys a temperate, humid climate with abundant sunshine. The sunshine is well spread through the year. In fact, it basks in more blue-sky days in winter than in summer.

The oldest house in Sydney can be found in The Rocks. It is Cadman's Cottage on George Street, built in 1816, once home to John Cadman but now the National Park Information Centre.



THE ROCKS

The Rocks has several heritage-listed sites, including:

- 39-43 Argyle Street: British Seamen's Hotel
- 96-98 Cumberland Street: Glenmore Hotel
- 100-104 Cumberland Street: Australian Hotel
- 25-27 George Street: Mercantile Hotel
- 69 George Street: Observer Hotel
- 87-89 George Street: Orient Hotel
- 91 George Street: ASN Hotel Building
- 98-100 George Street: Mariners' Church, The Rocks
- 110 George Street: Cadman's Cottage
- 131-135 George Street: English, Scottish and Australian Bank
- 143-143a George Street: Russell Hotel
- 58-64 Gloucester Street: Susannah Place
- 117-119 Harrington Street: Accountants House
- 1-5 Hickson Road: ASN Co building
- Hickson Road: Dawes Point Battery remains

